

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 13177 131100Z

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ACTION IO-13

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, FAO, APER (BOWIE, BARBARA J.)
SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF BARBARA J. BOWIE FOR FAO
INFORMATION POSITION

REF: STATE 199006

1. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO INFORMED FAO RECRUITMENT OFFICER PAGGI BY LETTER DATED AUGUST 11 AND DELIVERED AUGUST 12 THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT NOMINATES MS. BOWIE FOR POSITION 221-GII (CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT, P-3) AND THAT HER APPLICATION WILL BE COMING VIA FAO'S NORTH AMERICAN LIAISON OFFICE.

2. AMERICAN OFFICERS IN FAO INFORMATION DIVISION INDICATE CONFIDENTIALLY THAT POSITION IN QUESTION IS ONE FORMERLY HELD BY CERVI, AND HAS BEEN SLANTED TOWARD PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK WITH ITALIANS AND OTHER ITALIAN-SPEAKERS. THEY BELIEVE ITALIAN CANDIDATE WILL HAVE DECIDED ADVANTAGE.

3. ONE OF THE OFFICERS ALSO REPORTS CONFIDENTIALLY THAT N.R. MITCHIE (CANADIAN), INFORMATION OFFICER IN FAO LIAISON OFFICE WITH UNDATED NATIONS, IN NEW YORK, REPORTEDLY IS BEING BROUGHT TO FAO HEADQUARTERS FOR SOME P-4 INFORMATION JOB (NOT ONE BOWIE APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED FOR). MICHIE REPORTEDLY IS CONSIDERED HIGHLY COMPETENT AND IS BEING CONSIDERED POSSIBLY FOR LATER MOVEMENT TO P-5 JOB. HE MAY GET PRESS BRANCH CHIEF JOB, IN WHICH GEORGE DORSEY (U.S.) IS NOW ACTING AND WANTS.

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HIS REPLACEMENT IN NEW YORK, AS CUSTOMARY IN SUBORDINATE FIELD

POSITIONS WILL PROBABLY BE DECIDED MAINLY BY HEAD OF THE
OFFICE -- CHARLES WEITZ.

4. A NEW CONSIDERATION IN FILLING VACANCIES IN INFORMATION
DIVISION, OF WHICH SOME ARE LONG-STANDING, MAY BE REPLACEMENT
CHOSEN FOR J.C. GUISET (FRENCH), WHO AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT
FOR SPEECH-WRITING AND IDEA-MAN HAD BEEN GIVEN GENERAL
OVERSIGHT OVER INFORMATION ACTIVITIES. GUISET DID NOT LAST
BEYOND HIS PROBATIONAL PERIOD, AND HAS NOW DEPARTED TO RETURN
TO FRENCH FOREIGN SERVICE. ALTHOUGH HE IS A POLISHED DIP-
LOMAT, IN QUAI DORSAY STYLE, HE REPORTEDLY WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY
IN RAPPORT WITH SAOUMA'S THINKING. WE THINK THERE WOULD BE
LITTLE POINT IN UNITED STATES DEVELOPING ANY CAMPAIGN FOR THE
POST, SINCE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA HAS MADE IT ABUNDANTLY
CLEAR THAT HE WANTS A NATIVE FRENCH SPEAKER AND THAT HE WILL
CHOOSE SOMEONE PRIMARILY ON BASIS OF RAPPORT AND HARMONY WITH
HIS THINKING THAT HE CONSIDERS ESSENTIAL IN THE JOB. GUISET'S
DEPARTURE, HOWEVER, MAGNIFIES THE CHANGES IN INFORMATION
ACTIVITY AND PERSONNEL THAT ARE LONG OVERDUE AND WILL HAVE
TO BE MADE SOON. VOLPE

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